

# PERUVIAN Pasión



FEBRUARY 2018

## *Carlos Concha-Fernandez Castillo and CCFC Jupiter achieve a Guinness World Record!*

— Read the amazing story on page 3



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# Letter from the MAPHC President

## Welcome to our new Newsletter!

Our thanks, to Cyndi Young-Preston for the great new look!

A belated Happy New Year to all. I am looking forward this year to taking every opportunity to promote the Peruvian Horse. I invite all of you to work together to promote our wonderful breed. We need to do all we can to move on from the negativity on social media regarding our Peruvians. My husband Paul, daughter Grace and I — along with the star of the promotions, **PVFP El Amanecer** — will again attend both the Bedford County Fair and the Bedford Horse and Hound Festival, where I have done two ridden demonstrations in both Peruvian tack and sidesaddle. This year we were honored to perform in the Gala Performance at the National Show. I will be developing a new presentation to make every effort to keep it interesting and engaging.

We are forging ahead with our plans for our double-points show at Frying Pan Park, Herndon VA, September 7-9. We are organizing our show team and can announce our judges: the Hon. Lionel Peralta and the Hon. Angel Ribo. We will stay this year with the three-day format and will welcome feedback. We are excited to present All Gaited Breeds Open classes — including a stakes class. This will provide a great opportunity for our audience and competitors to see other gaited breeds in the same show ring. This will also show how smooth our Peruvians are in comparison. We will also host a marinera with horse dance competition. Additionally, we have secured an amazing room rate for our show hotel — cheapest

rate in our U.S. show circuit — an upgraded room at the Hyatt Regency for \$79! So please book early; some of you may want to extend your stay and take a trip into Washington, D.C. Consider taking a day or two to be a tourist in our capital city!

Prior to our show, we are planning at least one trail ride and a trail testing in the fall.

This is OUR newsletter and we will be looking for input from you. For this edition we hear from Carlos, with his world record-breaking ride to the top of the Misti Volcano in Peru; Chris, with an article on trail riding; Leah, on bringing up baby; and a great article on insulin resistance — something to look out for and be aware of in our breed.

In our showing world, OUR members have earned top recognition awards for the 2017 show season:

### David and Athena Averette

**NAD Granito**, who this year has earned multiple awards:

- Medallan de Bronce, over 3,000 in performance
- Outstanding Performance Gelding
- Outstanding Performance Horse
- *and* High Point Zone Award region 3

### AZF (PE) Soberana

- Champion Breeding Mare 2017, National Show



### Paul and Heidi Opdyke

#### PVFP El Amanecer

- Medallan de Oro, earning over 3,000 showing points
- *and* High Point Zone award Region 4

I am excited about OUR club and what WE can do in 2018!

The MAPHC was founded in 2012 to increase opportunities for Peruvian owners, breeders and aficionados to interact, and to increase visibility of the Peruvian Horse in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Our club has strong interests in supporting and encouraging junior riders — the future of the breed — and in encouraging trail riders to experience the versatility of our horses.

### Board

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# The Misti Volcano of Arequipa: Adventure in the Peruvian Andes

Carlos Concha-Fernandez Castillo  
Member, MAPCC

*Thanks to Johnny Forbes  
for the translation*

It all started in July of 2017, as we made our first attempt to ascend the Misti volcano (19,110 feet of altitude) on our beloved Peruvian Paso horse. This adventure was to prove that our Peruvian horse is a strong animal, always ready for the challenge, and for all breeders worldwide and the Peruvian people to feel very proud of their breed.

We could not reach the summit on our first attempt; a series of problems prevented us from realizing our challenge. The second expedition's attempt was scheduled for August 2017, but yet again, another unexpected cold front frustrated our ascent. On the advice of our veterinarian and in the best interest of our horse, we had to wait for better conditions. The third expedition's attempt was scheduled for December 20 and 21, 2017, but the bad weather once again forced us to postpone. Finally on December 22 and 23, our dreams came true and we reached the top of the Misti volcano.

**CCFC Jupiter** was born on my farm 5 years ago and is one hell of a good horse. He is very affectionate, noble, and above all else, possesses a desire for adventure. We prepared him for an entire year with special foods, multivitamins, and veterinary supervision. His conditioning included daily walks and by the time of our trip, he was in optimal physical condition.



The team was made up of 5 people and three horses. The first night we slept at 13,123 feet after leaving at 4 am that morning. We rode in stages and leading Jupiter on others. This system minimized the risk of failure, and not completing the challenge.

Finally we reached the summit of the volcano at 2 pm. Everyone on the team was very tired except for Jupiter who was in great spirits. I had great support from my two other beloved horses, **CCFC Mercurio** and **CCFC Cheese**, as we alternated stages with them. In this way, it made it possible for us to finish the climb.

We are in the process of registering this expedition in the Guinness Book of World Records, where the main figure will be our beloved Peruvian Paso horse.

I want to thank God, my team, and all my American and Peruvian friends who congratulated and supported us. This expedition was further proof that our horse is unique, and that we need to preserve and take care of them for future generations.



# Keeping Water Troughs Thawed With or Without a Heater

by Clair Thunes, Ph.D.

We all know how important it is for our horses to have ready access to water, but this can pose challenges when temperatures fall below freezing and you're unable to use a water heater. It's a lot of, literally, digit numbing work and sometimes near impossible to break the ice when temperatures fall. There are some things you can try that might help. However, keep in mind that many of these are less effective as temperatures decrease.

## 1. Locate your trough for sun exposure.

Place your trough in such a way that it receives as much full sun as possible. Many northern areas might not see much winter sun, but placing the tank in a south-facing area will increase the odds of as much sunlight as possible during daylight hours. Also, consider whether a shaded area is a good idea. While some shade, for example the overhang of a building, might offer some protection from cold overnight, it likely means less sun exposure during the day. If you live in an area where the trough will freeze whether it is under some kind of shade or not, I would place it where it will get the most day time sunlight.

## 2. Insulate your trough.

Obviously this helps to keep the exterior cold out and the interior warmth of the water in. Styrofoam board and/or foil covered insulation works well and can be wrapped around the outside of the trough. What works even better is putting one trough inside another with a gap of a couple of inches all the way around. Then, place insulation on

the bottom between the two troughs and around the outside of the interior trough. Finally, fill any gaps with spray insulation that sets hard. You can also build a plywood box, line it with insulation, and put your trough inside it.

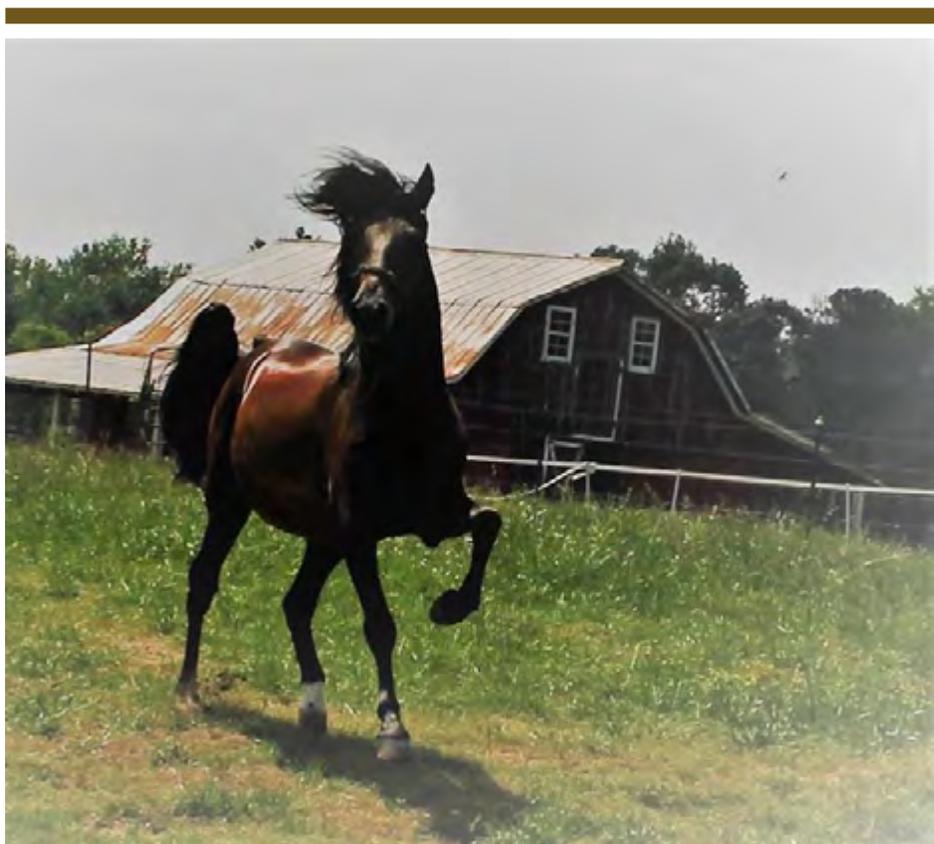
Ideally the top of the trough also needs to be insulated with just enough surface exposed for the horses to drink. A plywood lid with the underside covered in insulation works well.

Online resources for those living off the grid have useful information about how to build insulated troughs and use passive solar heating to reduce freezing. Some report that this is an effective method down to -10° Fahrenheit.

## 3. Place a float in the trough.

Floating something in the trough helps in a couple of ways. First, it keeps the surface of the water moving as it bobs about, making it harder to freeze. Second, if the horses learn to depress the floating object, it will expose an open area in the ice so they can drink. I have seen this done with soccer balls, but another tactic is to fill an empty two-liter soda bottle two thirds full with water and 1 to 2 cups salt dissolved and seal tightly. There is enough air in the bottle for it to float, and saltwater freezes at a lower temperature than the water in the trough, so the water keeps moving. These methods receive mixed reviews. Some people swear by them, while others find it doesn't work at all.

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Used with permission from Marlene McKinnon Cruze

#### 4. Bury your trough.

If your ground is frozen it is likely too late this year, but digging a hole for your trough and sinking it into the ground might help by insulating the trough. Again this is going to depend on where you live and how deep down your ground freezes. I read one account from someone living in North Dakota who used a fence post auger to dig a 12-inch hole several feet deep under their water trough. Apparently the heat rising from deep within the earth helped prevent the trough from freezing.

#### 5. Heat your trough.

Ultimately, you might need to breakdown and heat your trough. There are several options including battery, electric, or propane heaters. But before trying these you could try putting manure under your trough. Composting manure generates heat and the thinking is that if you have a several inches thick layer of manure under your trough, as it breaks down it will help warm the trough.

If you decide to use a battery, electric, or propane water-heating element be sure to install it safely. Follow the manufacturer's instructions, be sure to keep all cables out of the way, and have no connections near water. Definitely consider having a lid on the trough as it will not only help keep the heat in but will help prevent your horse accessing the heating element.

Actively heating your trough in combination with one or more of the above ideas will likely reduce energy costs.



Used with permission from Marlene McKinnon Cruze and Antonia Hite

Regardless of what methods you decide to try you should still work on the assumption that you will need to check water at least twice a day to ensure availability during cold weather.

<http://www.thehorse.com/articles/40059/keeping-water-troughs-thawed-with-or-without-a-heater>

*Clair Thunes, PhD, is an independent equine nutrition consultant who owns Summit Equine Nutrition, based in Sacramento, California. She works with owners/trainers and veterinarians across the United States and globally to take the guesswork out of feeding horses. Born in England, she earned her undergraduate degree at Edinburgh University, in Scotland, and her master's and doctorate in nutrition at the University of California, Davis. Growing up, she competed in a wide*

*array of disciplines and was an active member of the United Kingdom Pony Club. Today, she serves as the regional supervisor for the Sierra Pacific region of the United States Pony Clubs. As a nutritionist she works with all horses, from WEG competitors to Miniature Donkeys and everything in between.*



# AAEP Guidelines for the Vaccination of Horses

Article originally appeared in the Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau newsletter.

As we gear up for spring and show season it is important to remember vaccination protocols. The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) classifies West Nile virus, Eastern/Western equine encephalomyelitis, tetanus and rabies as “core” vaccines that should be administered to all horses.

## Core Diseases

**West Nile virus** — A widespread, mosquito-borne, neurological disease that can kill approximately one in three clinically affected horses. Horses should be vaccinated annually prior to the onset of the mosquito season. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses in endemic areas, horses younger than 5 or older than 15, and horses with compromised immune systems.

**Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE)** — A mosquito-borne disease that can kill 75%-90% of affected horses. Horses should be vaccinated annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses in endemic areas or with compromised immune systems.

**Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (WEE)** — A potentially fatal, mosquito-borne disease found primarily west of the Mississippi River. Horses should be vaccinated annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses in endemic areas or with compromised immune systems.

**Tetanus** — An often-fatal disease caused by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani* that is found in soil and feces.

All horses should be vaccinated annually.

**Rabies** — An invariably fatal neurological disease caused by the bite of an infected animal. All horses should be vaccinated annually.

## Risk-based Diseases

For noncore diseases, the risk of infection varies from horse to horse. Your veterinarian will recommend disease protection based on a risk assessment for your horse and disease threats in your area. Two common risk-based diseases include equine influenza and equine herpesvirus.

**Equine influenza** — A highly contagious respiratory disease that can cause fever, coughing and nasal discharge. Vaccinate low-risk horses annually and high-risk horses semiannually.

**Equine herpesvirus (EHV)** — Also known as rhinopneumonitis, EHV type 1 and EHV type 4 can cause fever, lethargy, nasal discharge and cough. Vaccinate horses annually. Consider semiannual vaccination for horses less than 5 years old, horses on breeding farms and performance/show horses at high risk.

Please consult your veterinarian for additional vaccination protocols for foals and broodmares.



Used with permission from Athena Averette

# What is Equine Metabolic Syndrome?

Equine veterinarians have long recognized a related syndrome of obesity, insulin resistance and chronic laminitis affecting a somewhat younger group of adult horses. Although these horses were initially suspected to comprise a subset of equine Cushing's disease cases, a long haircoat is not a feature of the condition and tests of pituitary function (e.g. the dexamethasone suppression test and plasma ACTH concentrations) usually yield normal results. Furthermore, affected horses do not respond to medications such as cyproheptadine and pergolide, which are frequently of benefit in Cushing's disease.

In the past few years, veterinary scientists have begun to examine this condition more closely and researchers at the University of Missouri have advanced a new name, "metabolic syndrome." Selection of this name was based on several apparent similarities between affected horses and the human condition known as metabolic syndrome, which is characterized by (1) obesity, especially involving accumulation of fat within the abdomen; (2) elevated blood lipids and reduced concentrations of high-density lipoprotein (so-called "good") cholesterol; (3) insulin resistance and hyperglycemia; and (4) high blood pressure.

Since affected horses are frequently obese, insulin resistant and hyperglycemic, there are clearly some legitimate points of comparison with the human disease. Significant differences are also evident, however, as affected horses usually exhibit normal blood pressure and do not consistently exhibit elevated levels of blood lipids.

The extent to which the equine and human syndromes are biologically analogous remains to be seen and will only be determined through years of careful research. Until further information is available to guide the rational selection of management strategies, it will be important to keep an open mind and focus on therapeutic measures that are truly effective in the horse and not simply assumed to be effective based on extrapolation from the human metabolic syndrome.

## What Causes Equine Metabolic Syndrome?

Obesity appears to be the central problem in both humans and horses suffering from metabolic syndrome. Although body fat is commonly viewed as an inert substance that functions solely as a storage form for energy, nothing could be farther from the truth. Body fat (especially that stored within the abdomen, liver and skeletal muscle) contains cells that are very active metabolically and hormonally, and when present in excessive amounts their effects can trigger a cascade of metabolic disturbances leading to insulin resistance and persistent hyperglycemia. These abnormalities, in turn, exert a variety of deleterious effects on the cardiovascular system, cartilage and bone. One of these effects is increased synthesis and release of cortisol within the peripheral tissues of the body, which may account for the predisposition to laminitis in affected horses.

## Diagnosis of Metabolic Syndrome

Metabolic syndrome is usually first recognized when chronic recurrent laminitis becomes evident in fat horses lacking other founder triggers. Affected horses are often grossly obese, with excessive accumulations

of fat in the crest of the neck, over the rump and around the tail head and in the sheath of male horses. There is no single test that can offer a definitive diagnosis of metabolic syndrome at present, but diagnostic tests that are helpful in arriving at a clinical diagnosis include measurements of insulin and glucose in the blood following a period of fasting, the intravenous glucose tolerance test and tests for equine Cushing's disease (e.g. the dexamethasone suppression test and plasma ACTH concentration).

It is particularly important to distinguish cases of metabolic syndrome from early cases of Cushing's disease, because the latter horses can be expected to respond to therapy with pergolide while the former group probably will not. In obese horses with advanced metabolic syndrome, fasting concentrations of insulin are almost always elevated, and blood glucose concentrations are frequently elevated. In less severely affected cases, the intravenous glucose tolerance test may be needed to demonstrate insulin resistance. This test involves serial measurement of blood glucose and insulin following intravenous administration of a standard dose of glucose. In normal horses, concentrations of both insulin and glucose rise initially, but return to normal within one to two hours. Insulin resistant horses, by contrast, show greater elevations in both insulin and glucose, and

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*Used with permission from Chris McIntosh*

these higher levels are sustained for a longer period of time before returning to baseline values.

### **Treatment of Metabolic Syndrome**

At present, treatment strategies for equine metabolic syndrome focus almost exclusively on reversal of obesity and insulin resistance through strict dietary modification and implementation of an exercise program, if possible. Of course, horses suffering active bouts of laminitis cannot be exercised until founder has been brought under satisfactory control. The most important principle of feeding affected horses is strict limitation of soluble carbohydrate in the diet.

Nutritional requirements should be met with exclusively fiber-based feedstuffs such as good quality grass hay; 1.0 – 1.5% of bodyweight per day is a useful guideline for the amount to feed, but particularly thrifty horses may require further restriction before significant weight loss is achieved. Sources of soluble carbohydrate such grain, sweet feed, carrots, apples and fresh pasture must be eliminated completely, as even very small amounts are likely to sustain insulin resistance.

If horses must be turned out onto pasture, they should be fitted with grazing muzzles that have been partially or completely taped to prevent grass intake. If greater dietary energy is required once obesity has been brought under control and an exercise program has been initiated, grass hay should be supplemented with soaked beet pulp and/or fat (vegetable oil or rice bran) rather than grain. It is likely that a variety of commercial complete feeds targeting metabolic syndrome will become available in the near future, which will greatly simplify nutritional management of affected horses and eliminate the need for feed analysis.

If horses fail to respond to dietary management despite what appears to be an appropriate diet, analysis of the forage by a nutritional laboratory such as DairyOne (<http://www.dairyone.com>) is strongly recommended, as the nutritional composition and soluble carbohydrate content of grass hay varies significantly, depending on species, geography and environmental conditions during growth, drying and storage. Forage analysis also permits quantification of minerals such as calcium and magnesium, which

can be used to guide their rational supplementation.

A variety of supplements have been advocated in the management of equine metabolic syndrome, but there is currently little scientific evidence to support or refute their effectiveness. As with Cushing's disease, supplementation with chromium picolinate and magnesium to achieve a dietary calcium:magnesium ratio of 2:1 is widely recommended, and equine nutritionists also recommend that dietary levels of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, copper, zinc, manganese and selenium should be at least 150% of the levels recommended by the National Research Council. Analysis of the forage is required to balance minerals accurately in this manner. Cinnamon has recently been advocated as an adjunctive therapy; it exerts some beneficial effects humans with type 2 diabetes and is unlikely to be harmful in any way. One nutritionist has recommended administration at a rate of 4 tsp per 1000-lb horse per day. Owners of affected horses are often tempted to deliver supplements such as minerals, cinnamon, and other medications in a small amount of grain, but this practice is strongly discouraged as it may be sufficient to prevent resolution of insulin resistance. Small amounts of soaked beet pulp that have not been treated with molasses are a much better choice. In humans, exercise and dietary control are frequently supplemented with medications that interfere with cortisol synthesis and increase insulin sensitivity, but these have not yet been evaluated in equine disease. Nevertheless, such medications represent additional options for valuable horses that fail to respond to conservative management.

*FROM: AAEP American Association of Equine Practitioners*

# Bringing Up Baby – a Steep Learning Curve!

Leah Coffman  
Hawk Hill Farm, LLC  
Fincastle, VA

Oh, the rewards (and challenges) of raising your equine partner from infancy....

As my favorite horse — **EVp Quixoté** — has grown older and developed health issues, I decided to breed for my next Peruvian.

\*\*\*



**Lunar Marcella** is a beautiful Peruvian mare with wonderful ground manners, a gorgeous gait, intelligence and a sweet disposition.

Usually.

Unfortunately, she was also rescued from a bad situation where her owner — a very large man with very little patience — had decided to “cowboy”-break her at 2.5 years, damaging her back and turning her into a bucking bronc. When she was three, he called to ask me to come and get Marci before he hurt her. So, of course, I did.

It took almost six years and a good chiropractor to overcome the physical issues, and several patient trainers to get Marci to where she is usually dependable under saddle, as long as she is ridden regularly. She and I were very successful in trail competitions and gaited dressage and we covered many trail miles together before spine problems forced me out of her saddle.

One of Marci’s trainers suggested breeding her because of her conformation, gait, disposition and intelligence. With help from several knowledgeable Peruvian owners, I found a complementary stallion, **HDLE Frederico De Clasico**, and the deed was done.

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Eleven months later, I had a beautiful chestnut colt. My first foal! **Galan De Clasico** (aka, **Beau Baby**). While I’ve had horses most of my life, I had NO experience with this! I was a complete rookie!



Once I was able to stop grinning long enough, I sought advice continuously — from our vet, our

farrier and folks that I knew were knowledgeable with foals.

My vet made sure I knew the baby needed to be socialized early and learn things that are easier to teach when they are still small (such as loading in a horse trailer). Hugs and handling began on day one.



A soft halter was introduced the first week. By two weeks, Beau began to learn to walk with a halter and lead (following his mom for persuasion). By six weeks, he was being groomed every day and he learned to stand still when having his feet picked out. His feet were checked and rasped every time the farrier came, while I encouraged him to stand quietly. He was introduced to dogs, cats, other horses: everyone and everything at the barn.

By six weeks he would load in a horse trailer — a bumper-pull that made it easy for him to step up and load. He followed me right in each and every time.

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At three to four months, he met all the large stuffed animals I use as trail obstacles; as well as played with a tarp, pinwheels, a mailbox and a bag of cans.



By five months old, we were hiking the trail around our farm with Beau marching beside me like a true companion should. He has had several family members work with him so that he'll respond well to anyone. He's learned to stand quietly (his least favorite thing) and do a turn on the haunches and the forehand as we have worked on lead manners. He backs a straight line beautifully. I've taught him to focus on my body language and response to voice requests.



By 18 months, he learned to work on a long line so that after he was gelded he could exercise to keep the swelling down. He works both directions and changes direction when asked. His cue to change direction is given by my hand position.

In SW Virginia, 2018 has been a cold, muddy winter. Since it was difficult to ride my horses without skiing down the hills and tearing up the trails, I decided it was time for Beau to learn to ground-drive.



After some confusion — when he kept trying to come back to my side and wrapped himself up in the lines (where he waited patiently for me to untangle him) — we soon were working around a small ring with someone at his head to guide him. However his cues were coming from me and he quickly caught on to what I was asking. By our next attempt, I'm confident he will master ground-driving as well, so I'll begin looking for the next new skill for us to learn.



I can't begin to adequately express how much joy Beau brings into our lives every day! He is a friendly, inquisitive, intelligent horse who will give me years of happiness. Doing daily ground work has already started building partnership and trust between us. With all he has already learned, he will be a joy to work with under saddle. In the meantime, I'm going to enjoy this wonderful gift that I have been given and continue "bringing up (Beau) Baby."



# Membership Application

Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Owner/Breeder, \$45 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior, \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Aficionado, \$35	
Name	
Address	
Ranch Name & NAPHA Number	
E-Mail	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here to receive e-mail updates	
Phone	
Comments/Questions	

**Please submit payment to:**

MAPHC, 9920 Dickerson Mill Rd., Moneta, VA 24121

Memberships run from January through December.



## Save the Date!

### Mid-Atlantic Peruvian Horse Club and Eastern Festival Regional Championship Show!

*Our first double show!*

Frying Pan Farm Park Equestrian Center, Herndon, Virginia

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/equestrian>

Judges: the Hon. Lionel Peralta and the Hon. Angel Ribo.

- Two shows for the price of one
- Pre-National warm-up show

Book early for an amazing room rate at our show hotel — cheapest rate in our U.S. show circuit — a King or 2 DB room for 2 at the Hyatt Regency for \$79! You MUST use this link to get the discount:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/49494745/owner/1460347/home>

We are building the dream team:

Naomi Scull as secretary; Joyce Russell, show steward; Truman Russell, gate steward; and Carolyn Mittrick, announcer.

[www.midatlanticperuvianhorse.com](http://www.midatlanticperuvianhorse.com)





*Both photos used  
with permission  
from Chris McIntosh*

## “Just a Trail Horse”

– Author unknown

I couldn't count the number of times that I have heard the words, “Oh, you just trail ride” or “It's just a trail horse,” and I just have to smile. To be JUST a trail rider, you need a special kind of steed that many don't realize the expertise required:

- He needs to be as maneuverable as a dressage horse to be able to place each foot exactly where and when you need because there is a 10-foot drop on one side and a rabbit nest on the other;
- He needs to be as bold as a fox hunter to go where he is pointed — be that over a log, up a hill, down a gully, through thick scrub;
- He needs to be as agile as a show jumper to twist and turn around, and over trees and bushes or rocks.
- He needs to have the stamina of an endurance horse because a 10-mile ride can easily turn into a 20-mile ride if his on-board GPS (a.k.a., rider) makes a wrong turn. (Been there. Done that)
- He needs to have the calm mind of a rodeo pick-up horse because many others do not, and he needs to cope with emotional energy coming from other horses in front, behind and either side of him.
- He needs to manage being squashed against others like a polo pony ... on some trails, his nose will be against a tail with knees banging against knees on either side and another horse breathing down his back.
- He needs to cope with bursts of speed like a cutting horse because if that on-board GPS turns the ride to 25 miles, you will get chafed walking that whole distance.
- He needs to be clever with his mind and feet ... sometimes that on-board GPS is going to get him stuck in places only he can get out of.
- AND ... he needs to be cuddly like a pony because he may spend days, weeks or even months one-on-one with his on-board GPS.

BUT, hey...He's JUST a trail horse!

**Mark your calendars and make plans to join fellow Mid-Atlantic Peruvian Horse Club members for a weekend of trail riding in the Jefferson National Forest in SW Virginia.**

**Within a few hours drive you can be riding down the trails out of one of two beautiful horse camps (Hungry Horse East or Iron Mountain Horse Camp which are both in Ivanhoe, Virginia) enjoying a vast variety of beautiful scenery in the mountains.**

**Hard to describe the thrill of crossing a mountain peak to discover breathtaking views of the range lands below ... or listening to the sound of silence interrupted only by the sound of your horse's hooves crunching the fallen leaves ... or splashing through a rocky creek ... or riding up on the remnants of an early settler's rustic mountain homestead, abandoned long ago leaving behind family memories and history.**

**These mountains have all of that and much more. Come see for yourself. We are planning for June 15–17. Check out one of the local horse camp's web pages or call 276-744-2887 for more information.**